

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 31, 2001  
MAG Office Building  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Roger Klingler, City of Scottsdale, Chairman  
Robert Hollander, City of Phoenix  
Patrick Clay, U of A Cooperative Extension  
Dale Bodiya for John Power, Maricopa  
County Environmental Services Department  
David McNeil, City of Tempe  
William Mattingly for Kevin Kadlec, City  
of Peoria  
Elaine Arena, Elaine Arena Associates  
Dave Siegel, City of Chandler

Esmeralda Avila, City of Avondale  
Ray Hedrick, Salt River Project  
John Boyer, Pinnacle West Capital  
Eugene Jensen, Citizen Representative  
\*Chris Zapata, City of Glendale  
\*Bill Haney, City of Mesa  
\*Lonnie Frost, City of Gilbert  
\*Cato Esquivel, City of Goodyear  
\*Gene Cetwinski, Valley Forward  
Association

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert L. Jones, Recreation Center of Sun  
City West  
Doug Towne, Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality  
Robert McCandless, Damon S. Williams  
Associates

Damon Williams, Damon S. Williams  
Associates  
James Shannon, City of Phoenix  
Brenda Geisen, Maricopa Association of  
Governments

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee was conducted on Thursday, May 31, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. Roger Klingler, Chairman, City of Scottsdale, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the April 26, 2001 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the April 26, 2001 meeting. Dave Siegel, City of Chandler, moved and Esmeralda Avila, City of Avondale, seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2001 meeting.

3. Public Hearing - Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number three is for information and a public hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant.

Brenda Geisen, MAG, provided an overview presentation on the Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix Plant. She indicated that the draft amendment would include the Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant with an ultimate capacity of 32.0 million gallons per day (mgd). She indicated the facility would be located immediately east of Interstate 17 and north of the Central Arizona Project Canal.

Ms. Geisen indicated that the proposed facility is identified in the current MAG 208 Plan as the Biscuit Flats Water Reclamation Facility with an ultimate capacity of 12.5 mgd. Excess reclaimed water would be disposed of through reuse, aquifer recharge or discharge to Skunk Creek. She indicated that the Flood Control District of Maricopa County has indicated they do not object to the facility.

Rob McCandless, Damon S. Williams Associates, provided a presentation on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. He indicated the entire service area for the facility is within the City of Phoenix limits, and that the City would own and operate the facility.

Mr. McCandless indicated that, in Phase I, the primary mode of effluent management would be aquifer recharge. The demand for reuse would increase as development increases in the area, and the plant would contribute to a larger scale reuse master plan in the future. An intermittent discharge to Sonoran Wash, a tributary to Skunk Creek, is also planned.

Mr. McCandless indicated efforts are underway to obtain the necessary permits for the facility. Required permits would include an Individual Aquifer Protection Permit, NPDES permits for the Skunk Creek discharge and storm water, a reuse permit, future 404 permits, 401 water quality certification, dry well registration, and various Maricopa County Environmental Services Department permits.

Mr. McCandless indicated the City is in the process of selecting a construction manager, and initiation of construction is anticipated for March 2002. He indicated substantial completion of Phase I is anticipated by June 2004.

Chairman Klingler indicated that hearing participants were invited to make comments on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant for the public record. No public comments on the draft amendment were received.

Chairman Klingler closed the Public Hearing on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant.

4. Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number four was for information, discussion and possible recommendation to approve the Draft MAG 208 Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant.

Dale Bodiya, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, inquired about the construction manager at risk.

Mr. McCandless indicated that the City will select a construction manager at risk to review the design while in process and then provide a maximum price and bid on the project. He indicated this would allow the contractor for construction to provide input on the design of the project.

James Shannon, City of Phoenix, indicated that the City is not using the open bid process. He indicated that the City is using the short listing process, and companies would be interviewed for pre-construction and construction of the plant.

Eugene Jensen, Citizen Representative, moved to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant. Mr. Siegel seconded, and it was unanimously passed by the Committee.

5. Presentation on “The Evaluation of Shallow Groundwater in the Salt River Valley”

Chairman Klingler indicated that agenda item number five was for information and discussion. Ken Schmidt, Kenneth D. Schmidt and Associates, provided a presentation on a recent study conducted on shallow groundwater in the Salt River Valley.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that the purpose of the study was to determine primary factors influencing shallow groundwater, evaluate long term implications of rising water levels, discuss potential impacts on groundwater quality, and develop proposals for managing shallow groundwater in the Salt River Valley. Through the study, an up to date map was prepared to show the depth to shallow groundwater in the Valley.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that many observation wells tap the shallowest groundwater in the Valley, but a known data base for water-level measurements for most of these wells does not currently exist. He indicated much of the existing data is for specific gasoline leaks, as it has been compiled by the State for permitting applications and other purposes.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the subsurface area in the Salt River Valley is made up of three major geologic units called alluvial units; the Upper, Middle, and Lower Alluvial Units. He indicated the Upper Alluvial Unit generally has a depth of about 250 feet, and is the most affected by recharge at or near the land surface. Mr. Schmidt indicated there can be different problems associated with each Unit.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that, historically, a large amount of pumping for agricultural purposes occurred within the Upper Unit. He indicated very few public supply wells currently tap the unit due to the presence of inferior groundwater quality, which has resulted from irrigation practices. Shallow groundwater in this unit has been confined to new wells, some of which water is pumped into canals upstream from municipal water treatment plants.

Mr. Schmidt indicated there is growing concern over poor quality of water in areas where shallow groundwater exists. Mr. Schmidt provided water level hydrographs for wells located in several areas of the Maricopa County area.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the impacts of historic and current recharge and discharge projects on water levels in each Alluvial Unit within the study area. He discussed the reasons for significant water level changes and long term implications of rising water levels in the study area.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the impacts on groundwater quality in the study area and proposals for effective groundwater management in the future. These proposals included developing a goal to stabilize water levels over the long term, implement conjunctive use programs.

Mr. Schmidt suggested that a balance between recharge and discharge should be established for groundwater in the Upper Alluvial Unit, and that vertical flow of the groundwater between the Upper and Lower Alluvial Unit be recognized as an important component of the water budget. He also discussed the need to address the hydrogeologic data gaps associated with the vertical hydraulic conductivity of fine grained deposits in the Middle Alluvial Unit.

6. Call to the Public

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Water Quality Advisory Committee. No comments were received and the meeting was adjourned.